



ar and blindfolded attempts to locate Jeff Merrell. Instead he comes
ing the need for a thermal image camera for firemen.

itically injured in a fire in Uintah
ounty last year, and he didn't
ow of any case of someone being
lled by a fire in Uintah County.
Currently there are 25 volunteers
the fire department and funding
being sought to increase the num-
er to 28.

Recently the fire departments in
the county received state of the art
Self Contained Breathing
Apparatus (SCBA) units. Vernal
City - Uintah County received 8;
Lapoint-Tridell, 2; Jensen, 2 and
Naples City, 2. The SCBA were
purchased with a federal grant.

Additional use

nts from Christensen and neigh-
s both for and against the pro-
al, Commissioners denied the
uest for a conditional use permit.
ommissioner Cloyd Harrison
l the expansion request didn't
t the "health and welfare"
irement for a conditional use.
ounty building inspector Dale
erson said the neighbors south
west for the proposed pig farm
n't smelled the pig odor. Those
east of the farm had smelled
odor from the pigs. The closest
hbor is about 100 yards away.
hese people have as much right
njoy going into their backyard
nyone else," said Peterson.

The next level of appeal for
Christensen is to district court. In
court she would have to prove the
that county commissioners acted
illegally or arbitrarily in making
their decision.
One area of appeal could be the
number of pigs per acre as set forth
in the county zoning ordinance. The
ordinance allows up to 8 pigs per
acre in an agricultural zone.
"However, I made a decision that
her operation would be a pig farm
which is limited to 16 unless there
is a conditional user permit granted
by the county."
Peterson admitted that his inter-
pretation of the zoning ordinance

5/047/006 VERNAL PROGRESS
for trespass
APR 3, 2002
of shale retort

Oil Tech Inc. will have to
pay \$30,000 penalty for their
oil shale retort located near
Bonanza and \$10,000 a year
for a surface lease on their
one-acre facility.

John Andrews, attorney for
State Institutional Trust Lands
Administration (SITLA), said
the penalty was based on the
\$10,000 lease times three
which is the maximum penalty
SITLA is authorized to assess.
The \$10,000 a year is based
on other properties in similar
locations.

Oil Tech Inc. was formed
February 2000 for develop-
ment of an oil shell retort
which would extract oil from
oil shale. The process is based
on a retort designed by Byron
Merrell of Vernal who is the
manager for the facility. About
a year ago, the retort was
moved to its present location
in Cowboy Canyon about 5.3
miles east of the Bonanza
Gilsonite facility in southeastern
Uintah County.

Jack Savage, principle investor in
Oil Tech, said during a Uintah
County Planning Commission meet-
ing last month, that he sat down in a
room will all affected state agen-
cies, including the Uintah County
economic development director and
asked if there was anything that
needed to be done prior going ahead
with the research and development
of the project.

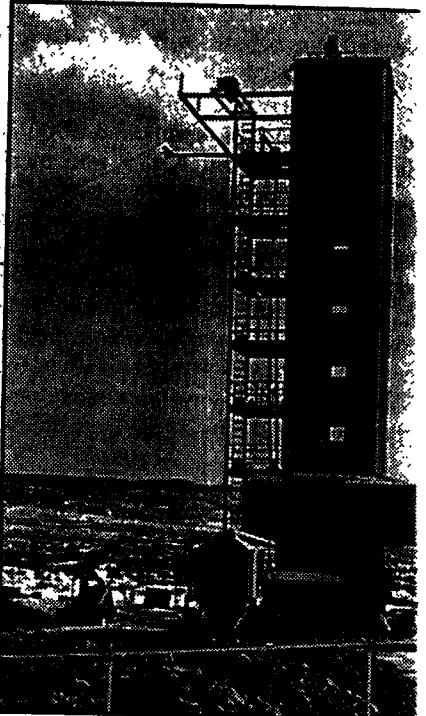
"Everyone said, 'no,'" Savage
said.

Savage agreed that the retort was
in trespass and he needed to get a
surface occupancy lease before pro-
ceeding.

"We had an attorney in Denver to
help with the permitting, but we
were in no hurry," he said.

Four members of the County
Planning Commission recommend-
ed to the County Commission that a
condition use permit be granted to
the company once they have provid-
ed proof that they have complied
with all state and federal permits.

Savage said Oil Tech owns about
20,000 acres of oil and gas leases in
the area of the retort, but will in
about a year apply for a small min-



Oil shale retort owners will be fined
being in trespass.

ing permit for under five acres.

If company chooses not to com-
with the terms set by the state
the penalty and lease, the comp
will be asked to remove their fa-
ty from state land, Andrews said.

Once the company has comp-
with state and federal permits, it
apply from a conditional use per-
(required for an oil shale ret-
from the Uintah Cou
Commission.

Savage said the retort has b-
operated for a couple of hours o
daily basis. The company is us-
oil shale hauled to its location fr-
the White River Shale facility so
15 miles away.

With the retort in trespass, it c-
not be operated, but the compa-
can continue to secure the site.

The only other company expe-
menting with oil shale is Shell (C
Corp on the western side
Colorado. Oil shale is a sediment-
rock containing solid and cor-
bustible organic matter (kerog-
and bitumen) in a mineral matr-
Oil shales are much more comm-
than is generally recognized, occu-
ring on every continent and in eve
geological system.